

A Note on “Family Tree of the Bharata Clan” derived from the Five Early Mandalas

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Before we take up the subject for discussion, there is a need to throw light on a historical fact of **Mughal** time. **Babur**, the founder of **Mughal Dynasty** in India was a direct descendant of **Timur**, invaded India and established his rule in the year 1526 AD in North India. Whenever a present-day writer or a historian speaks about **Babur’s son**, then it is clear that he/she actually means his son **Humayun** only and neither his grandson **Akbar** nor his notorious descendant **Aurangzeb** nor even the **last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II** who was arrested and imprisoned by the **British Army** after the failed mutiny of year **1857 AD**.

Now keeping above thing in the back of our mind, we shall minutely look into the references regarding the members of **Bharata Clan** present in **Mandala-2 of Rigved**.

In the **verse-1** and **4** of the hymn **Rv-2.7** dedicated to **Agni** we find two separate references of **Bharatagne/ भारताग्ने** term; meaning thereby, a **special Yajna** was being conducted in the name of a king belonging to **Bharata** clan (assuming).

In the verse **Rv-2.36,2** addressed to **Maruts**, there is a reference of **Bharata’s Sons** (**भरतस्य सूनवः/plural**) wherein the Poet has requested them to enjoy **Soma** drink along with **Maruts** [1].

Rv-2.36,2 : *yajñaih sammiślāḥ prśatībhīrrṣṭibhīryāmañchubhrāśo añjisu priyā uta |
āsadyā barhirbharatasya sūnavah potrādā somam pibatā divo narah //*

Busied with sacrifice, with spotted deer and spears, gleaming upon your way with ornaments, yea, our friends, Sitting on sacred grass, ye **Sons of Bharata**, drink **Soma** from the Potar’s bowl, O Men of heaven.

Here the basic question is, “who are the “**Sons of Bharata**” of the verse **Rv-2.36,2?”**

As we know from the **Mandala-7** verse (**Rv-7.18,25**) ; **Bharata** king **Sudasa** was the son of **Divodasa**. Similarly, **Mandala-6** verse **Rv-6.47,25** informs us that **Bharata** king **Divodasa** was the son of **Srnjaya**. Additionally, **Mandala-4** verse **Rv-4.15,4** tells us that **Bharata** king **Srnjaya** was the son of **Devavata**.

Although Rigvedic Poets of **Mandala-4, 6** and **7** have independently called **Srnjaya**, **Divodasa** and **Sudasa** as the **Bharatas**, bringing all three kings/ tribe leaders under the **clan of Bharata**, but no poet has directly termed anyone of them as the “**son of Bharata**”.

But after scrutiny of **All Five Early Mandalas**, a **Mandala-3** praise-song reveals that in the verse **Rv-3.23,2** the Poet has denoted both **Devavata** and **Devasravasa** as the **Bharatas**.

Rv-3,23,2: *amanthisṭām bhāratā revadaghniṇ devaśravā devavātah sudakṣam / agne vi paśya brhatābhi rāyeśām no netā bhavatādanu dyūn ||*

Both Bharatas, Devasravas, Devavata, have strongly rubbed to life effectual Agni.
O Agni, look thou forth with ample riches: be, every day, bearer of food to feed us.

Also in the **verse-3** of the same hymn the Composer has linked “**Agni of Yajna**” with **Devavata** indirectly hinting at **Devavata** was the leader of the **Bharata tribe in Mandala-3**.

Rv-3.23,3 : *daśa kṣipah pūrvyam sīmājījanan sujātām mātṛṣu priyam / agnīm stuhi daivavātām devaśravo yo janānāmasad vaśī ||*

Him nobly born of old the fingers ten produced, him whom his Mothers counted dear.
Praise **Devavata's Agni**, thou **Devasravas**, him who shall be the people's Lord.

Based on the examination of relevant data taken from all **Five Early Family Mandalas**, it can be said that **Devavata** and **Devasravasa** are the actual names of the **sons of Bharata/ bharatasya sūnavah** of the verse **Rv-2,36,2** (only reference depicting more than **one son**).

Then it is obvious that a special reference of **Bharata's Agni** mentioned in the hymn **Rv-2.7 (twice)** makes the character **Bharata** as the founder of “**Bharata**” **dynasty of Rigved**. It also manifests that during the composition of Mandala-2, **Bharata** and **his sons** were present.

Above investigation also intimates us about **Mandala-wise leaders of Bharata clan** at the time of composition of the **Five Early Mandalas** and they are; **Mandala-2: Bharata; Mandala-3: Devavata; Mandala-4: Srnjaya; Mandala-6: Divodasa; Mandala-7: Sudasa.**

Please note that above information has been sourced from **Rigved only** (first-hand source) that formed the basis for the present study and the example of **Mughal Dynasty** has been given just to make the subject understandable.

Reference:

1. “**Rig Veda**”(Bilingual), Translated by Ralph T. H. Griffith (1896) in PDF (indicated by symbol-# in the present text).